(b) if so, the number of such sales outlets of Indian Airlines at the airports;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such sales outlets are not commercially successful and cost Indian Airlines very heavily;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Commercial Director of Indian Airlines has ordered that such outlets should not accept MCOs of passengers; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such outdated concepts being practiced by Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total number of such sales outlets of Indian Airlines, at the airports, is 56.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Provision of Aerobridge at Patna Airport

2629. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the civil airport at Patna has been upgraded as Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this airport doesn't have the facility of aerobridge; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide this facility at Patna Airport and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Patna Airport has been renamed as "Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport". Customs and Immigration facilities are available there. International flights from Nepal are operating from this airport.

(b) and (c) At present, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan to provide aerobridge at Patna Airport.

Posting of IAF Officials at ATC in Metro Airports

2630. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to post Indian Air Force (IAF) officers at Civil Air Traffic controls in the four metro airports to monitor aircraft movement;

(b) the purpose of this decision taken by Government; and

(c) in what manner this would help IAF to react quickly in case of deviation of flight from its normal route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Government have decided to post Indian Air Force officers at Civil Air Traffic Control Centre at Delhi airport only to monitor air traffic movement to protect strategic installations/buildings in Delhi.

(c) Information is being collected from Indian Air Force.

Operation of International Flights from Amritsar

2631. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate direct flights from Amritsar to destinations in Europe, Canada and United Kingdom for the benefit of the people of Punjab who have settled and are working there and also for tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The designated carriers of India *i.e.* Air India/Indian Airlines have no plans, at present, to operate direct flights from Amritsar to destinations in Europe, Canada and United Kingdom. So far as the operation of foreign